



Lecture 12

Analyzing and Discussing Global and Local Problems

ANDRIAS YULIANTO

JAKARTA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Sub-Topics

1. Identifying Global vs. Local Problems
2. Describing Causes and Effects
3. Suggesting Solutions and Expressing Opinions
4. Comparing Perspectives: Global and Local

Language Features

1. Academic vocabulary: inequality, pollution, unemployment, climate change, etc.
2. Topic sentences to introduce the issue.
3. Supporting details to explain the issue.
4. Cause and Effect: Due to, leads to, because of, results in, as a result
5. Example signals: for example, for instance, including, namely, such as, to illustrate
6. Modals for suggestion: should, could, might, need to
7. Problem-solution: the issue is..., A possible solution is...
8. Modal verbs to emphasize the importance of action.
9. Conclusion to summarize the argument and propose a solution

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe global and local problems using appropriate academic vocabulary.
2. Analyze causes and effect using structured expressions.
3. Express opinions and propose solutions using appropriate language.
4. Write and discuss problems using logical paragraph structure with clear topic sentences, supporting details, and conclusions.
5. Compare and contrast global and local issues

If you could fix one problem...



Source: Getty Images. (n.d.). Dry cracked earth stock pictures. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/dry-cracked-earthshutterstock.com+2istockphoto.com+2gettyimages.com+2>



Source: Getty Images. (n.d.). Homeless tent city stock pictures. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/homeless-tent-citygettyimages.com>



Source: Getty Images. (n.d.). Jakarta traffic stock pictures. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/jakarta-trafficgettyimages.com+1istockphoto.com+1>

Conditional Sentences Type 2 (Hypothetical/Unreal Situations)

Conditional Sentence Type 2 If + past simple, would + base verb

Usage: This type is about a hypothetical or imaginary situation in the present.

If people used less plastic, the oceans would be cleaner.

If I were a superhero, I would save my earth from forest destroyers.

If humans did not destroy nature, animal life would be safer.

(Source: Murphy, R. (2019). *English Grammar in Use - Fifth Edition*. Cambridge University Press. Pg. 78)

If you could fix one problem...



Source: Getty Images. (n.d.). Plastic waste river stock pictures. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.gettyimages.ca/photos/plastic-waste-rivergettyimages.ca>



Source: iStock. (n.d.). Flooded neighborhood stock photos. Retrieved June 6, 2025, from <https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/flooded-neighborhoodshutterstock.com+8istockphoto.com+8istockphoto.com+8>

Think-pair-share

I would fix _____ because _____

I would fix **plastic pollution** because **saving the environment** is a long-term priority.

10 global issues

Global issue	IPA Pronunciation
Pollution	/,ʌn.ɪm'plɔɪ.mənt/
Poverty	/'klaɪ.mət ,tʃeɪndʒ/
Unemployment	/pə'luː.ʃən/
Climate Change	/,ɪn.ɪ'kwaɪ.lə.tʃ/
Deforestation	/,oʊ.və'pɑː.pjə'leɪ.ʃən/
Inequality	/diː'fɔːr.ə'steɪ.ʃən/
Overpopulation	/'flʌd.ɪŋ/
Homelessness	/'pɑː.və.tʃ/
Flooding	/'træf.ɪk kən'dʒes.tʃən/
Traffic Congestion	/'hoʊm.ləs.nəs/

Think – pair – share: 10 global issues

Global issue	IPA Pronunciation	Meaning
Pollution	/pəˈluːʃən/	the harmful substances that cause damage to water, the air, etc.
Poverty	/'pɔːvə.ti/	the condition of being extremely poor
Unemployment	/,ʌn.ɪm'plɔɪ.mənt/	the number of people who do not have a job that provides money
Climate Change	/'klaɪ.mət ˌtʃeɪndʒ/	changes in the world's weather, particularly an increase in temperature
Deforestation	/diːˌfɔːr.ə'steɪ.ʃən/	the cutting down of trees in a large area, or the destruction of forests by people
Inequality	/,ɪn.ɪ'kwɑː.lə.ti/	a lack of equality or fair treatment in the sharing of wealth or opportunities
Overpopulation	/,oʊ.vəˌpɑː.pjə'leɪ.ʃən/	having too many people or animals for the amount of food, materials, and space available
Homelessness	/'həʊm.ləs.nəs/	the state of being without a home
Flooding	/'flʌd.ɪŋ/	the condition of becoming filled or covered with a large amount of water
Traffic Congestion	/'træf.ɪk kən'dʒes.tʃən/	a situation in which a road is too blocked or crowded

Fill in the blank

Use each word once → *poverty, deforestation, pollution*

1. One of the most serious environmental issues today is () which affects the air, land, water.
2. Many people are living in () after Covid 19 took place. They cannot afford the basic necessities of life.
3. In addition, the problem in many countries today is illegal logging and land clearing. () destroys the habitat of many animals.

Answer

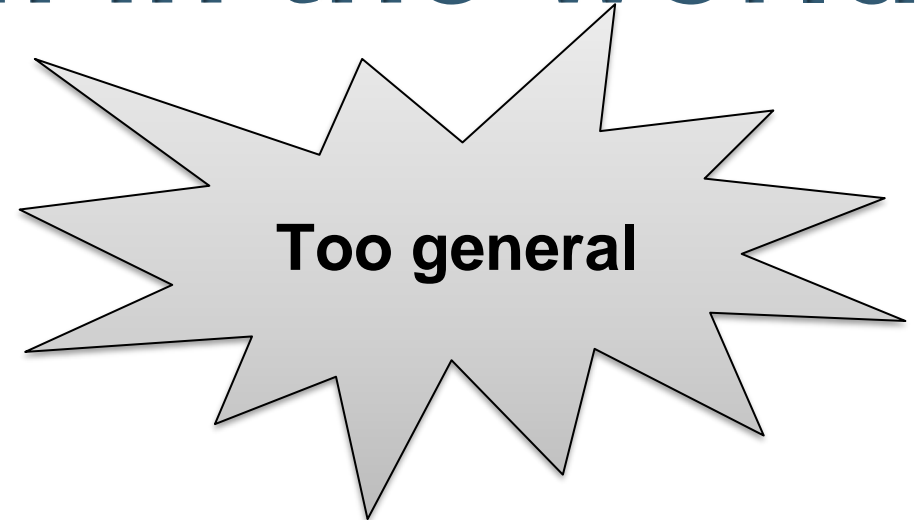
1. One of the most serious environmental issues today is **pollution**, which affects the air, land, water.
2. Many people are living in **poverty** after Covid 19 took place. They cannot afford the basic necessities of life.
3. In addition, the problem in many countries today is illegal logging and land clearing. **Deforestation** destroys the habitat of many animals.

Let's share

What serious problem in the world worries you the most?

There is a problem in the world

- What kind of problem?
- Where?
- Who is affected?



Topic sentence

- Unemployment is now a serious societal issue, particularly for young people after they graduate.
- Plastic pollution has emerged as a significant threat to marine ecosystems.
- Poverty continues to be a pervasive issue in numerous developing countries.
- Flooding has been demonstrated to cause significant damage to residential properties and transportation infrastructure in rural regions.

What's the problem?

Who is affected?

Complete or Improve

Vague Topic	Topic Sentence
There is a big problem in the forest.	The issue of deforestation has reached crisis proportions in forest ecosystems .
Some people don't have a home.	The economic crisis has precipitated a substantial surge in homelessness in numerous developing countries .
The weather changes a lot.	In recent years, the issue of climate change has gained global prominence .
Many people are not treated fairly.	A considerable number of individuals are subject to unfair treatment in numerous states.

Follow this pattern

[Problem] is a serious issue that affects [community/place]

Example:

Air pollution is a serious issue that affects **the health of people** especially in big cities.

Get to know!

Paragraph

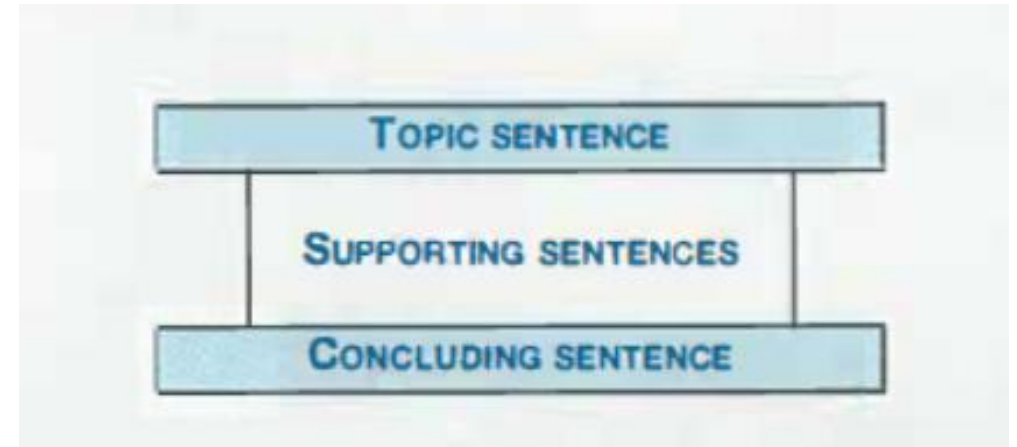
The Topic Sentence

- Topic
- Controlling Idea

Example:

Climate change is a serious global problem leading to extreme weather events.

What the paragraph will say about the topic



(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson. pp. 38-39)

Topic Sentence

Identify the topic and controlling idea

Topic Sentence	Topic	Controlling Idea
Climate change is a serious global problem leading to extreme weather events.	Climate change	It's a serious global problem leading to extreme weather events.
Plastic pollution has emerged as a significant threat to marine ecosystems.
Inequality in education limits job opportunities for underprivileged groups
Deforestation is one of the causes of climate change and the loss of animal habitats

Topic Sentence

Identify the topic and controlling idea

Topic Sentence	Topic	Controlling Idea
Climate change is a serious global problem leading to extreme weather events.	Climate change	It's a serious global problem leading to extreme weather events.
Plastic pollution has emerged as a significant threat to marine ecosystems.	Plastic	It is a significant threat to marine ecosystems.
Inequality in education limits job opportunities for underprivileged groups	Inequality in education	It reduces the chances to get jobs
Deforestation is one of the causes of climate change and the loss of animal habitats	Deforestation	It causes climate change and destroys animal habitats

Writing practice

Complete topic sentence using a clear controlling idea!

Topic	Controlling idea
Poverty	It contributes to the educational disadvantage experienced by children.
Traffic congestion	...
Unemployment	...
Overpopulation	...

Writing practice

Complete topic sentence using a clear controlling idea!

Topic	Controlling idea
Poverty	It contributes to the educational disadvantage experienced by children.
Traffic congestion	It causes stressful for people in cities.
Unemployment	It contributes to the rise in criminal activity.
Overpopulation	It is a contributing factor to the economic challenges faced by nations.

Topic sentence

Identify the topic sentence from these two paragraphs!

Unemployment is a growing concern that affects millions of people worldwide. Many young graduates struggle to find jobs after finishing their studies. This situation creates financial pressure on families and can also lead to stress and anxiety. In some countries, job opportunities are limited, and competition is very high. As a result, many people remain unemployed for long periods, which impacts both individuals and the economy.

Many cities experience daily traffic jams during peak hours. People spend hours on the road just to get to work or school. Cars move slowly, and buses are often overcrowded. Air pollution also increases because of the long waiting times. Traffic congestion has become one of the most serious urban problems today.

Topic sentence

At the beginning of paragraph

Unemployment is a growing concern that affects millions of people worldwide. Many young graduates struggle to find jobs after finishing their studies. This situation creates financial pressure on families and can also lead to stress and anxiety. In some countries, job opportunities are limited, and competition is very high. As a result, many people remain unemployed for long periods, which impacts both individuals and the economy.

At the end

Many cities experience daily traffic jams during peak hours. People spend hours on the road just to get to work or school. Cars move slowly, and buses are often overcrowded. Air pollution also increases because of the long waiting times. **Traffic congestion has become one of the most serious urban problems today.**

(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson. p. 40)

Neither too general nor too specific.

Topic Sentence	Type	Explanation
There are many problems in the world.	Too general	Doesn't tell the reader what problem will be discussed
In 2020, 15.5% of university graduates in Indonesia couldn't find a job within 1 year.	Too specific	Gives a specific statistic-better suited as a supporting detail
Unemployment is a growing concern that affects millions of people worldwide.	Just right	Clear and focused

(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson. p. 40)

Let's continue

Climate change is a serious global problem leading to extreme weather events.

- What do you mean?
- Why is this important?
- Can you give an example?

Supporting Details

Giving more information:

- Explanation
- Development
- Evidence

(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson. pp. 44-46)

Why is this important?

In many regions, plastic pollution has emerged as a significant environmental problem affecting individual and public health. **The primary cause** of this problem is the excessive use of single-use plastics, including bottles, bags, and packaging, which frequently end up in rivers, oceans, and landfills. **Consequently**, toxic chemicals from plastics can enter the food chain, endangering marine life and human health. **For instance**, microplastics have been detected in seafood consumed by individuals residing in coastal regions. **To address this problem**, governments and individuals must take action by reducing plastic use and promoting recycling programs. **One potential solution** that has been implemented in several countries is the prohibition of plastic bags in supermarkets. Continued irresponsible use of plastic has the potential to inflict irreparable harm on the environment. **Therefore**, enhancing public awareness and promoting eco-friendly practices can contribute to a more pristine and salubrious planet.

Let's explore more...

Plastic pollution has emerged as a significant environmental problem affecting individuals and public health.

We need to explain this!

What causes it?

What are the effects?

Cause & Effect

Connector	Structure	Example
because	[Effect] + because + [Cause]	The forest is shrinking because trees are cut down illegally.
because of	[Effect] + because of + [Noun/Noun Phrase]	Temperatures are rising because of deforestation.
due to	[Effect] + due to + [Noun/Noun Phrase]	Floods are becoming more frequent due to climate change.
leads to	[Cause] + leads to + [Effect]	Deforestation leads to rising global temperatures.
results in	[Cause] + results in + [Effect]	Air pollution results in serious health problems.
as a <u>result</u>	[Cause sentence]. As a result, + [Effect]	Trees are being cut down rapidly. As a result, many species suffer.
as a consequence of	[Effect] + as a consequence of + [Noun/Noun Phrase]	Sea levels are rising as a consequence of melting glaciers.
the effect of	[Effect] + is the effect of + [Cause]	Poor air quality is the effect of industrial pollution.
resulted from	[Effect] + resulted from + [Cause]	The forest fire resulted from extreme heat and dry conditions.

(Oshima, A., Hogue, A., & Ravitch, L. (2017). *Longman academic writing series 4: Essays*. Pearson. pp. 124-126)

Match the cause and effect clause

Cause	Effect
A. Deforestation	1. Respiratory problems
B. Air pollution	2. CO2 increases, high temperature
C. Overfishing in oceans	3. Sea level rises
D. Melting polar ice caps	4. Decline in fish populations
E. High unemployment rates	5. Increased poverty and social unrest

Writing practice

Deforestation has been identified as a contributing factor to the observed increase in global temperature.

Supporting sentence 1: [cause]

Supporting sentence 2 [effect]

The primary cause of this predicament is the substantial felling of trees in various countries without the implementation of adequate replanting measures.

Consequently, there has been considerable forest degradation, which has led to an increase in CO2 emissions.

Writing practice

Deforestation has been identified as a contributing factor to the observed increase in global temperature. The primary cause of this predicament is the substantial felling of trees in various countries without the implementation of adequate replanting measures. Consequently, there has been considerable forest degradation, which has led to an increase in CO₂ emissions. **For instance**, in the forests of Kalimantan, large-scale logging and land clearing for oil palm plantations has led to the loss of millions of hectares of forest, thereby significantly reducing the area's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide.

For example

Connector	Structure	Example
for example	[General statement]. For example, + [Specific example]	Deforestation contributes to climate change. For example, cutting trees in the Amazon has increased CO ₂ levels.
such as	[General statement] + such as + [Examples]	Many countries face environmental problems, such as pollution and deforestation.
to illustrate	[General statement]. To illustrate, + [Specific example]	Forest loss affects biodiversity. To illustrate, orangutans in Borneo are losing their habitats.
for instance	[General statement]. For instance, + [Specific example]	Climate change leads to extreme weather. For instance, some countries now experience longer droughts.
namely	[General idea], namely + [Precise example]	Several ecosystems are under threat, namely tropical rainforests and coral reefs.
including	[General category] + including + [Examples]	Human activity causes pollution, including plastic waste and gas emissions.

(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson.p. 45)

Exercise: fill in the blank

Use the words once: *namely, for instance, such as, including*

1. The effect of water pollution is undeniably serious. _____, fish populations will become extinct due to death.
2. Some countries, _____ Indonesia and Brazil, are contributing significantly to deforestation.
3. Air pollution can come from many different sources, _____ car emission and factory smoke.
4. The issue of air pollution necessitates the implementation of immediate solutions, _____ the strict regulation of high-emission vehicles and industrial smoke emissions.

Exercise: fill in the blank

1. The effect of water pollution is undeniably serious. **For instance**, fish populations will become extinct due to death.
2. Some countries, **such as** Indonesia and Brazil, are contributing significantly to deforestation.
3. Air pollution can come from many different sources, **including** car emission and factory smoke.
4. The issue of air pollution necessitates the implementation of immediate solutions, **namely** the strict regulation of high-emission vehicles and industrial smoke emissions.

How important it is to act?

Deforestation has been identified as a contributing factor to the observed increase in global temperature. The primary cause of this predicament is the substantial felling of trees in various countries without the implementation of adequate replanting measures. Consequently, there has been considerable forest degradation, which has led to an increase in CO₂ emissions. For instance, in the forests of Kalimantan, large-scale logging and land clearing for oil palm plantations has led to the loss of millions of hectares of forest, thereby significantly reducing the area's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. **To address this issue**, governments and individuals **must** implement measures to cease deforestation and initiate reforestation efforts. **A potential solution** that governments **should** consider is the implementation of strict regulations regarding land clearing for oil palm planting. The implementation of such a solution **could have** a substantial impact on the planet.

Problem-solution

modal verb	Function	Example Sentence
should	Suggestion	People should recycle more.
could		This solution could impact significantly.
might		We might stop using this materials.
must/have to	Emphasizing urgency	Government must take action immediately.
need to		People need to reduce the use of plastic.

(Source: Murphy, R. (2019). *English Grammar in Use - Fifth Edition*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 52-66)

Problem-solution

Function	Language Structure	Example
Suggesting solution	A possible solution is + noun/verb-ing	A possible solution is planting more trees.
Suggesting solution	One way to solve this is + to + base verb	One way to solve this is to limit car usage.
Suggesting solution	Another option is + to + base verb	Another option is to increase public transport.
Suggesting action	It would be better to + base verb	It would be better to use renewable resources.

Exercise

Instructions: Complete the sentences with your own ideas using the correct structure.

A possible solution is _____.

One way to solve this is to _____.

The government should _____.

It would be better to _____.

Authorities must _____.

Exercise

Instructions: Complete the sentences with your own ideas using the correct structure.

1. A possible solution is cleaning the river from the trash.
2. One way to solve this is to reduce the use of plastic.
3. The government should establish more stringent regulations regarding the practice of illegal logging.
4. It would be better to use reusable bag and bottle.
5. Authorities must implement stringent prohibitions against illegal logging in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of forest ecosystems.

Finally...

Deforestation has been identified as a contributing factor to the observed increase in global temperature. The primary cause of this predicament is the substantial felling of trees in various countries without the implementation of adequate replanting measures. Consequently, there has been considerable forest degradation, which has led to an increase in CO₂ emissions. For instance, in the forests of Kalimantan, large-scale logging and land clearing for oil palm plantations has led to the loss of millions of hectares of forest, thereby significantly reducing the area's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. To address this issue, governments and individuals must implement measures to cease deforestation and initiate reforestation efforts. A potential solution that governments should consider is the implementation of strict regulations regarding land clearing for oil palm planting. The implementation of such a solution could have a substantial impact on the planet. **Indeed**, it is imperative to reduce deforestation and promote reforestation as immediate measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and preserve the Earth's ecological balance for future generations

Followed by a Comma	No Comma
<p>1. All in all, In summary, In brief, To conclude, In conclusion, To summarize, Indeed, To sum up, In short,</p>	<p>2. It is clear that . . . These examples show that . . . You can see that . . .</p>
<p>1. To summarize, Japanese food is both beautiful to look at and delicious to eat. Indeed, many U.S. cities and regions have a special food for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>2. It is clear that fad diets don't work and may even damage a dieter's health.</p>	

(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson. p. 47)

More...

Connector	Structure	Example
In conclusion	In conclusion, + [summary sentence]	In conclusion, using plastic must be stopped to reduce water pollution.
To sum up	To sum up, + [summary sentence]	To sum up, we need to replant the forest and be more aware to protect forests.
Therefore	[Cause-effect sentence]. Therefore, + [conclusion/result]	Plastics are thrown away to river. Therefore, the water pollution cannot be avoided.
Thus	[Explanation]. Thus, + [summary or implication]	Forests produce oxygen. Thus, their destruction affects lives.
As a <u>result</u>	[Cause]. As a result, + [effect/conclusion]	Illegal logging has increased. As a result, many forest species have lost homes.
Overall	Overall, + [summary or final thought]	Overall, reforestation efforts must be prioritized to restore ecosystems.
In summary	In summary, + [final idea based on argument]	In summary, we need to work together to save our planet.

Wrap up!

Topic	Key Takeaway / Summary
Academic Vocabulary	inequality, pollution, and climate change, etc.
Topic Sentences	A topic sentence introduces the main idea of a paragraph clearly and directly (topic & controlling idea)
Supporting Details	Provide explanation and examples to support the topic sentence.
Cause and Effect	These structures explain relationships between actions and their consequences.
Example Signals	Signal phrases help introduce examples to support ideas
Modals for Suggestion	Modals help propose solutions or actions.
Problem-Solution	Identifies the issue and suggests possible solutions to address it.
Modal Verbs for Emphasis	Modals like <i>must</i> or <i>need to</i> show urgency and importance in taking action.
Conclusion Signals	Signal phrases help summarize the argument and reinforce the message clearly.

References

Cambridge Dictionary - <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

Murphy, R. (2019). *English Grammar in Use - Fifth Edition*. Cambridge University Press.

Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson

Oshima, A., Hogue, A., & Ravitch, L. (2017). *Longman academic writing series 4: Essays*. Pearson

Thank you